

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

## Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	DD/RM	X			
4	DD/NFA		X		
5	DD/CT		X		
6	DD/A				
7	DD/O				
8	DD/S&T				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
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15	D/Pers				
16	AO/DCI				
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		SUSPENSE DATE:			

## Remarks:

To 3: Please coordinate with 4 and 5;  
advise DCI if appropriate.

STAT

D/Executive Secretary

13 Sept 79

Date

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**The Geosat  
Committee, Inc.**

Sept. 10, 1979

Dear Member of the President's Review Committee - Space:

As you are well aware, the corporate members of the Geosat Committee and other members of the geological community are vitally interested in your current deliberations regarding the future institutional arrangements for satellite remote sensing of the earth for the next decade. The Geosat Committee has closely followed the progress of and contributed to the Private Sector Involvement and the Integration Studies conducted in response to Presidential Directives 37 and 42 in 1978.

Your review of these studies in mid-September, 1979, and your resulting recommendations will strongly influence the future disposition of operational earth remote sensing satellite systems on an international basis. The Geosat Committee strongly urges that your recommendations and the ultimate administration decisions encourage private sector involvement as rapidly as possible, subject to market and technology transfer conditions. We strongly believe that the private sector, through the service industries, can most efficiently provide those types of satellite remote sensing data of importance to the geological community. We recognize that government is a principal user of this data and must be a part of any overall operation of earth remote sensing systems. We encourage the eventual operation of such a system by a private sector service industry to provide this data to both private end users and government.

It is our understanding that your deliberations include consideration of the placement of an operational earth remote sensing satellite system, including such current components as the EROS Data Center, either in the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce, perhaps in NOAA. Many of our geological member companies would feel most comfortable with such a system being placed within the Department of Interior because of its land-oriented charter. However, we can see some justifications for placing that system within the Department of Commerce, whose charter encourages private sector development. We do not believe the interests of the geological community would be best served over the long term by placing this operational earth remote sensing satellite system within NOAA, whose current charter emphasizes oceanography and atmospheric. If the decision is made to place the earth remote sensing system within the Department of Commerce, we hope that due consideration will be given to the establishment of a separate DOC entity to deal with land-oriented end users interests. The Geosat Committee does not consider itself in a position to make a firm recommendation as to where an operational earth remote sensing system should be placed within the Federal government, but we strongly urge that a decision be made soon, so that justifiable private sector involvement, such as a STEREOSAT initiative, can proceed without further delay. Such data is important to the United States in view of the current mineral and energy crises.

In agreement with Senator Schmitt's 1979 Senate Bill 875 and with our understanding of the intent of the current initiative of the Department of Interior to

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become the lead agency for an operational earth remote sensing satellite system, we strongly recommend that wherever the decision is made to place this system, a Board of Directors or some other form of meaningful governing board be created which will represent the end user community in order to direct the policy and programs of the system. In this sense, we strongly urge that such a board contain members of the Federal government, the private sector end user community (the geological industry, agribusiness, the timber industry), state and local governments and non-U.S. users. We believe that such a governing board directing these programs in the future with direct end user participation will provide maximum benefits to the United States.

Although at times the governmental decision-making process of which you are presently a part seems to go agonizingly slowly and thus tends to inhibit private sector involvement, the Geosat Committee applauds the efforts being made and encourages your early decision. We hope that the operational earth remote sensing satellite system will be established and that a governmental commitment be made for its continued development. We also hope that maximum opportunity for private sector involvement by the service industries for the end user community will be encouraged as rapidly as possible as a matter of national interest and security.

Respectfully yours,

*F. B. Henderson III*

Frederick B. Henderson, III, Ph.D.  
President, The Geosat Committee

FBH:dgp

cc: Cecil Andrus, Richard C. Atkinson, Bob S. Bergland, Harold Brown, Charles Duncan, Stuart E. Eizenstat, Robert A. Frosch, Howard W. Hjort, David Johnson, David C. Jones, Juanita M. Kreps, Gordon Law, James T. McIntyre, Jr., Daniel Murphy, Frank Press, Robert Rosenberg, George E. Seignious, Norman Terrell, Cyrus R. Vance.